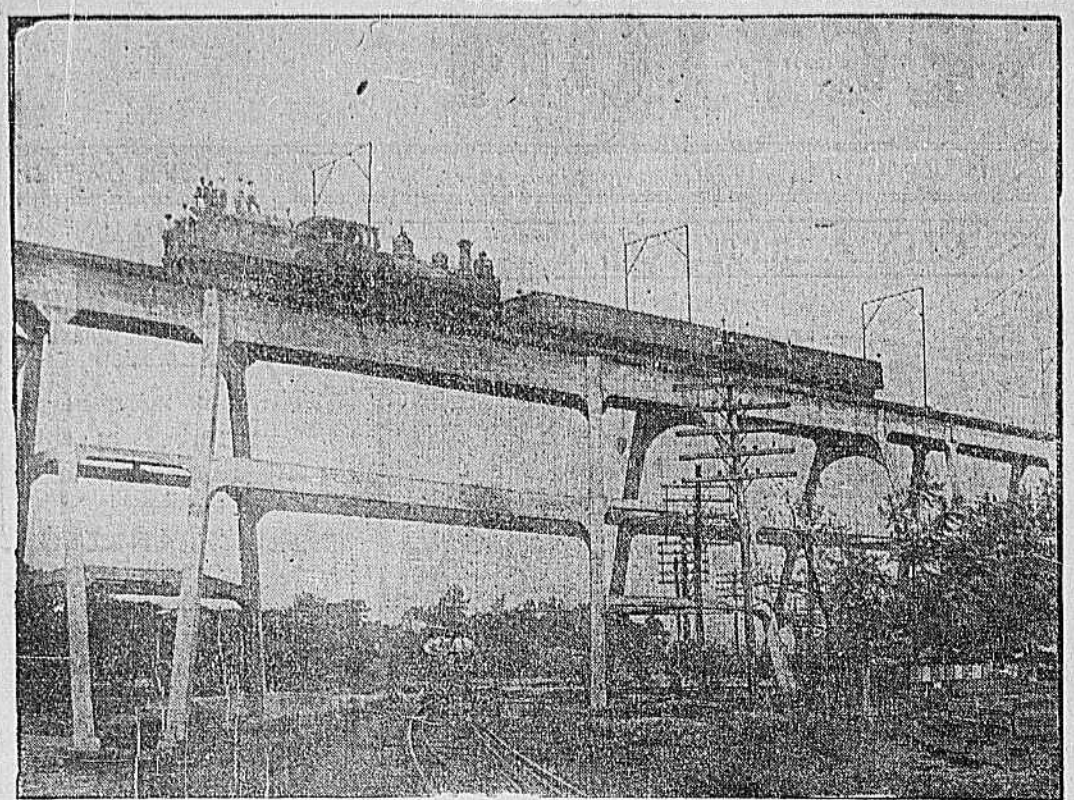


CROSSING THE SEABOARD AIR LINE RAILWAY AND OAK STREET



The long viaduct upon which the cars of the Richmond and Chesapeake Bay Railway are to enter the city continues to be the wonder of the civil engineers and the railway builders. It is announced that a number of experts are soon to visit this city to look upon and examine the viaduct. The span which crosses the Seaboard Air Line and Oak Street is considered by some of the experts to be the finest part of the work.

It may be well enough in view of the expected visit here this week of experts from abroad, to repeat the results of the test made a few days ago. The girder at the City Street girder was 3-32 of an inch at Marshall Street, 5-32 of an inch. These girders are each 88-foot spans. The 20-foot girders deflected 1-8 of an inch, and the 30-foot girders 3-32 of an inch. The load was a heavy freight locomotive, with two steel gondola cars, loaded with steel rails—in all about 500,000 pounds. The viaduct was built by John T. Wilson, contractor, of this city.

Branch, showed by its last report to the Corporation Commission in capital of \$50,000; surplus, \$25,000; undivided profits, \$5,500; interest reserve, \$3,250; deposits, \$206,700; real estate and buildings, \$22,700; loans and discounts, \$314,250. Mr. Theodorick E. Roberts, a prominent tobaccoist, and all-around business man, is the president of this bank. The cashiers are Norman H. Williams, Chase City; W. H. Pettus, Jr., Drake's Branch; and W. W. Wright, South Hill. Mr. J. R. Cooley is the assistant cashier here.

Yountest of A. J.

The First State Bank is the youngest of the three. Mr. George A. Endly, the founder of Chase City, is the president of this bank. Mr. O. D. Boyd is vice-president, and Mr. Robert Patterson is cashier. The bank maintains a branch, or twin bank, at Clarksville, which is presided over by Mr. A. W. McGee, vice-president, and O. A. Boyd, cashier. An office is also maintained at Red Oak, an extensive trading point in the county. This is in charge of Mr. B. D. Adams. The paid-up capital of the State Bank is \$25,000; deposits, \$59,000; loans, \$9,000. The total assets foot up \$135,000.

The banks furnish money for the business enterprise of the community, and while they are conservatively managed, they believe in Chase City and Mecklenburg county, and when development of these are the points aimed at they are liberal with money.

Tobacco Interest.

Chase City is a tobacco market; it could not help from being situated as it is in such a rich tobacco-growing section. The Chase City tobacco warehouses sell three and a half million pounds of leaf per year. The American Tobacco Company, the Imperial Company and the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company have large priorities here, and keep buyers on the market all the year. There are several independent buyers also, all of whom handle the weed in the latest and most approved manner, their factories being equipped with steam and all the necessary drying and curing apparatus.

The Roberts Tobacco Company manufactures smoking and plug tobaccos, that have favorable reputations in the markets of the South. The company is well equipped, employing a sufficient force of hands. The pay-roll of the labor force amounts to \$500 per month.

Other industries here employ many hands, and have in the aggregate products that run up into the thousands per week, and thus turn loose a great deal of money that finds its way into the stores and shops of the town.

Immense Wagon Factory.

The Chase City Manufacturing Company manufactures high-class wagons, does business in every State in the Union.

This wagon-making business was established here fourteen years ago by Lucius Gregory. It commenced in a small way, but Mr. Gregory made the farm wagons. He could not afford to do otherwise, for he named his vehicles "Gregory" and to-day the "Gregory" wagon finds customers in forty-six States, and not a few of them are shipped to South America, to Cuba, and to England. The company also manufactures light trucks on special order, and in this department they get as many orders as they care to fill. Mr. Gregory is the president of the company, and Mr. John Wesley Swift is the vice-president. Mr. George R. Land is secretary and treasurer, and Mr. E. S. Emory is general manager. The company is incorporated with a capital of \$120,000, and has a surplus of \$50,000. One hundred and twenty-five men are employed in the factory, more than half of whom are expert workmen. The pay-roll runs over \$50,000 per year.

Much Lumber Consumed.

The annual output for Mecklenburg county lumber to be converted into wagons in this factory is something over \$100,000, and lumber purchased in other sections foot up about \$200,000. The company uses about 400 tons of steel per year.

While the Gregory wagons are sold all over the country and in foreign parts the principal trade is in the Southern and Southwestern States. It is rare that less than a car-load lot leaves the depot here for any given point.

The company's plant covers a large space of ground on the outskirts of the town, and is equipped with the best of modern machinery. On the hills surrounding the plant is a picturesque village of cozy cottages, in which the families of the workmen live.

The Hub, Spoke and Lumber Company, of which E. S. Emory is president, and F. S. Heidebaugh is vice-president, are immense consumers of lumber, and so far they find the wagon factory a customer for all of the hubs and spokes they make. They are manufacturers of staves also, which are shipped to various markets, and cities nearby, along the line of the Southern Railway and its branches are customers for their dressed lumber. This concern employs many hands, and their pay-roll became immense in the course of a year.

Furniture and Lumber.

The Chase City Furniture Company is an establishment that has had its ups and downs, but is now in a prosperous condition. It is owned largely by the furniture company of Mr. A. W. McGee, and is really a branch of that large establishment. However, a considerable block of the preferred stock, about \$15,000, is held in Chase City. The furniture factory makes bedroom furniture of all kinds, and ships all over the country. A large number of hands are employed, and their plant is well equipped with the latest machinery.

The Kershaw Manufacturing Company.

The Kershaw Manufacturing Company is one of Chase City's pet enterprises. They are immense consumers of Mecklenburg county lumber, and convert the raw material into staves and all manner of handles. They also run large planing mills and prepare timber for building purposes for nearby markets. The dressed lumber is shipped to neighboring cities, but the staves and the handles they turn out go all over the North and West, and first and last the Kershaw company brings to Chase City a great deal of outside money. They employ from fifty to seventy-five hands all the year round, and their pay-roll amounts to nearly a thousand dollars per month.

New Enterprises.

The Chase City Canning Company is a new concern that has just started up, with ample capital to make a great business. It is controlled by local capital and is headed by energetic men who know no such word as fail. The company has erected a splendid factory and equipped it with machinery at a cost of \$13,000. They will can all kinds of fruits, tomatoes, sugar-corn, snap-beans and anything else that is canned in the section. The farmers raise for the purpose. The farmers say it is just the kind of establishment they have been wanting here for a long time. The company is expected to distribute a great deal of money where it is most needed, and will be the means of causing farmers in this section to diversify crops more than they ever have before.

The Chase City Machine Company.

is also a new establishment that in time will doubtless grow to a great concern. The leading business to be undertaken by this company is the establishment and building of acetylene gas plants, but they do all kinds of plumbing work, and the running of gas and water pipes is their specialty.

Heavy Mercantile Business.

Great and small, there are between forty-five and fifty mercantile establishments in Chase City, and some of the stores are handsome brick structures, well filled with goods suitable for the trade. They are all retail establishments, but some of them sell goods in such large quantities they might easily be considered wholesalers. All the merchants seem to be prospering. They have a splendid back country to supply them, and their customers are well-to-do people, who make money and do not mind spending it for what they want. The Chase City stores can furnish anything anybody can possibly want.

Educational Advantages.

The public school of the town is an up-to-date establishment, with all the departments of the graded school and the high school well managed. Although the present high school building is a commodious and comfortable one, the people are not altogether satisfied, and they propose at an early date to build another that shall be in all respects as good as any in the State. The present building has six rooms. Six teachers are employed and there are 230 scholars enrolled.

The Southside Institute is a female school under Baptist control, and is considered one among the best schools in the State. On its roll are the names of fifty odd girls, who come from Mecklenburg and other counties.

Miss Hortense Drew conducts a splendid private school for smaller girls. She is an expert teacher of children, and her school is very popular. The patronage is local.

Large Colored Institute.

Near the town is located the Thyme Institute for colored people. This school is one of a string that extends through North Carolina, and is under the missionary department of the Northern Presbyterian Church. The land and buildings here are valued at \$30,000. In addition to the educational department proper, an industrial and agricultural department is maintained, and it is likely that this is the most valuable branch of the institute. In this department young colored women are taught to sew, to cook and to do all sorts of things that will make them useful in life; while the boys are taught scientific farming and given practical knowledge, for the institute has ample lands for demonstration.

Out-of-Town Lumber Plants.

Outside of town, for ten miles in fact, there are lumber interests and sawmills and planing-mills that are practically Chase City's enterprises, for this is their shipping and trading and banking point. Among these may be mentioned R. L. Hervey's extensive mills. Mr. Hervey is an extensive dealer in cross-ties, and now has a large contract to furnish ties for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Other large establishments of a similar character within five or six miles of town are those of Haley & Hervey, Haynes & Boswell, B. F. Borden & Co., manufacturers of barrel headings and staves and lumber dealers. All of these have offices in town. Within ten miles around town there are at least twenty-five other lumber concerns and sawmills of more or less pretensions, all of which transact the bulk of their business here. The lumber interest in this part of Mecklenburg county is simply immense. At no time of day can one look out and fail to see a string of lumber wagons moving through the streets of Chase City.

Mecklenburg Mineral Springs.

The famous Mecklenburg Mineral Springs, with the immense hotel and sanitarium, have done much to carry the name of Chase City to the uttermost parts of the country. The reputation of the waters, both lithia and chloride calcium, in world-wide, and the splendid hotel and sanitarium are all that money and genius can make them. The sanitarium is delightfully located amidst spacious lawns, pines and woodlands, containing 145 acres. The building is thoroughly modern, and is equipped with steam heat, electricity, cold storage and ice plant; every room an outside room, well lighted and ventilated, comfortable beds, box springs and hair mattresses, extensive solaria, hallways and verandas.

The Hydratic Department includes the celebrated system of Baruch and Nibbeling bath, complete electrical outfits, consisting of static, galvanofaradic and X-ray apparatus; complete hot air outfits, vibration, massage, etc., trained nurses and attendants. The physicians are experienced in physio-therapy and sanitarium work.

The Mecklenburg has an all the year season, and is filled at all times with people who are in search of health and pleasure. It is under able management, headed by the president, Colonel William T. Hughes.

A Good Paper.

Chase City has a good newspaper and job printing office under the management of Mr. Roy P. Beasley. The Chase City Progress is the name of the paper, and it is issued weekly. It enjoys the distinction of being the only weekly paper in the State which has ever since it was born issued fifty-two editions per year, having never missed a day and never taking a Christmas week holiday. The Progress has one of the best equipped offices in the State. The paper is popular all over the county and in border counties. It has a circulation and an advertising patronage that makes the plant a paying investment.

Young Men's Club.

One of the pleasing things noticeable on every hand in Chase City is that everybody talks up the town. While this is true, it must be said that the seventy-five men who constitute the Young Men's Commercial Club have done more to keep the town moving than anybody else. The officers of the club are R. D. Patterson, president, H. A. Lipscomb, secretary. These officers are ably assisted by associate officers and a most excellent and enthusiastic board of directors.

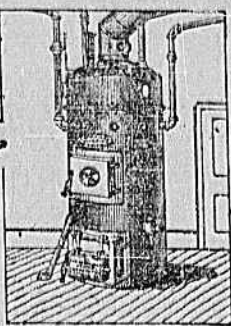
The club has broader enterprises to the town, and has awakened a progressive sentiment that tells for good. It is now considering the one thing that Chase City needs above all things, and that is another railroad. The scheme that is receiving the attention of the club is to build a first-class electric line across the country to connect with the Virginia (Tidewater) Road now being built. Such a line would strike the Virginia at a point, and when built, within twenty miles, and when built, will not only give Chase City a connecting line, but will open up a splendid undeveloped farming and lumber section that would pour wealth into the lap of the town. Of course the electric line would aim to strike the Virginia right in the woods, so that Chase City would be the market town and the outlet for the country traversed.

When the club gets its head well set for this enterprise it will carry it through. So far, the word success has been branded on all of its undertakings, and those who know its membership doubt not that this new railroad scheme will in time be branded in the same way.

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